

**From:** Don Elder  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 10:51am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am the Vice President of a software company that develops Windows compatible products. I also am a developer of both Windows software and browser based software.

I have reviewed the documents provided by the DOJ.

It seems that the DOJ and courts have got the facts wrong.

Netscape failed because it was and remains an inferior product. When Netscape first came out in the mid 90's I attempted to obtain information needed to write a Netscape "plug-in" to make it possible for the output of my software to be viewable by a Netscape user. I quickly found that Netscape provided no documentation and demanded hundreds of dollars in prepayment for unspecified documentation and support. After several weeks of effort that went nowhere, I gave up on ever obtaining the needed information.

What is interesting is the fact that Netscape required extra effort on the part of developers to make the output of their software visible to Netscape users. To me this seemed to be more of a scam aimed at ripping off software developers. This integration with the browser has always been automatic with Internet Explorer and remains so today. Developers of standard Windows programs who properly register their file types with Windows do not have to go to any extra effort to have their files displayed via a link from the Internet Explorer browser.

It is very sad that the DOJ got pulled into this ridiculous lawsuit by people who ran their own companies into the ground by making bad decisions.

We have been a developer of Windows based products since 1989 and are a direct competitor of Microsoft. Microsoft has never been anything other than an excellent software company and honest competitor.

I truly hope that we will see the end of DOJ meddling in the software business.

Sincerely,  
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